Dear Dick, 4/16/74

Dealing with adversity or the seemingly impossible does not bother me and as I think you may have seen does not deter me. My major problem is trusting people and taking the word of anyone I like and trust. If there is an illness the opposite of paranoid, that one I suffer. Not only do I think I will not overcome it - I don't think I want to try.

My purpose in this kind of introduction will become apparent. It is not to give offense.

Patience, please.

Recently there have been some changes. They are quite visible, tangible, whether or not something comes of them. These range from a persisting in overcoming the difficult by people who are ordering my original books as has not happened since the end of 1966 a nd early 1967 to expressed desires in having my files as permanent archives by a college and a prestigeous state historical society to an interest by some people in a foundation to having that foundation support me in a modest but adequate fashion to the most recent, a firm movie offer for part of my work on which I could have signed a contract yesterday but instead turned it over to a friend whose is experienced in movie matters.

In shorthand, I think of themany operative factors the most important one is Watergate. If it has done nothing elese relevant, it has diminished the reluctance to contend with that which is unassailable but unwelcome in the work I have done and continue to do.

In turn, if there is but one writer in whose work Watergate is not an unexpected developement, I am that writer. I laid the development, not the details, out in 1968, in a book titled Coup d'Etat the King parts of which later appeared as Frame-Up.

It is now a year since I first spoke to Comart about a Watergate book. I started writing the kind of book he and Dr. Gross seemed to prefer and they fell silent. Then I heard from another German publisher and made some changes in what I was writing and he also fell silent. Thereafter I became my own prolix self and switched to a series of books that would be an historical record if nothing else, in the hope that by including what would be necessary for a publisher's and an editor's willingness to believe there might be a willingness to invest the editing cost to reduce it to the possible in size and do the whole thing in a single large book that would tell the whole story.

The needs of existence primarily among a number of factors forced me to lay the writing aside the first of the year. By then I had done more than 500 pages and had a bit more in drafts not read or completed but thousands of words.

Here I digress. It may seem to brag.

As I look back on that writing so long in advance of the major developments I think of no single error, no major change required by developments, and only the most minor alterations were there ever to be a non-Dr. Weisberg's Five Foot Watergate Bookshelf. (If you are old enough for the awkward pun.) Even those samples where Shepherd expressed disbelief have been not only authenticated but not yet fully caught up with.

So, regardless of literary defect probably largely due to my fear that people won't believe and a natural prolixity, what I have done remains absolutely solid. It is entirely authenticated by what has happened since, without anything disputing the most minor details.

And we live in a society in which this kind of record means absolutely nothing.

The tax season is now over and with it my wife's regular work. She will now be working two days a week only. If this introduces new problems for us, it eliminates much drain on my time and I will again be working under conditions more conducive to productivity. Knowing this would begin today, I have been trying to think what I would do through when I could during the past few weeks. It is sometimes dangerous for me to use my limited periods of physical labor for thinking time. I almost lopped my left thumb off while thinking of something else while using a machete. Same thumb, second time. It is healed.

However, when I flew to meet with the representative of the foundation and yesterday driving to Washington I could do some thinking. My conclusion is that with all that most people have learned during the past year it is now possible for me to do a short, hot, new - and I emphasize deliberately - Watergate book. Before I go further, honesty impels a further characterization: a dangerous book. I mean that hot.

All that is new to me, meaning what I have obtained in recent months, is in an area in which you have often expressed personal but undefined interest. CIA.

I now have and have safely deposited duplicates outside my possession and with people I can trust who have nothing to do with any of my work on assassinations or my earlier writing enough to convictm at least three top CIA people of more than one major crime. Here I am not offering you my layman's opinion but that of a lawyer who has examined only some of these documents. He agrees there is no question on perjury and obstructing justice. I do not suggest these charges will ever be filed. I am trying to describe what I also belive is not the hottest part of the book I can do. And I also mean rapidly.

It is only because of your past expressions that I am this unspecifically specific.

So you can better understand my lack of specificity, I am talking about what not fewer than four Congressional committees are suppressing and what the Department of Justice, the Office of the Special Prosecutor and major media elements have suppressed and with the media refused to consider.

As things now are, I do not expect this to change. I expect continuing covering up. r, to coin a phrase, Whitewash.

The hottest stuff is on Nixon and on Nixon and others, meaning both people and CIA.

There are lingering questions currently not even asked but the most basic questions.

I have the answers, on fact and on people and on relationahips.

It is really mindblowing.

I'll give you just one and by no means the major illustration: the effort to impeach Douglas involved not fewer than four Watergate characters. I mean important characters. And a foreign military dictator. I have more than enough documents and shiuld any official action follow, can pinpoint those I have seen and do not have copied for subpena.

That 18-minute gap in the tape and the disappearance of all tapes of that day? I have the answer and the documentary proof.

In short, if anything can now do Nixon in, I have it.

There is no single aspect of the seemingly sensational exposures that has approximated the incredible reality. On such things as his taxes, after all that has been done, there is proof of fraud and of consoiracy not even mentioned. I have that proof. The really dismal part is that I haven't been able to give it away.

This tells you that anyone who even talks to me had to have Garguantua's balls.

I am aware that the Post boys' book is about to appear. Had I the disposition I could bomb it with a single appearance. Event may yet, "events" meaning Howard Baker. If he were as able as he is cunning he would. He is within the ballpark to my knowledge. (Ahd I have even warned the Post that I can make his case for him. And won't, for him.)

I am aware that there are all these official proceedings on the front page. But I know something of them and their personnel. You should see my Jaworski file! I know him and his CIA past and respect his ability, not the least demonstration of which is getting away with indictments that cover less than what is public domain. What little has come out I had to break indirectly and from the west cost by indirection when the eastern press, including the Pulitzer Post, would not touch it. The Post did send a reporter here when Nixon appointed Connally's Jaworski. I gave him my file and my copy machine and let him copy what he wanted. He paid me for 40 pages and I don't even know which. He wrote a story and it was killed.

So much for what can be expected of Jaworski and the Post.

Of the problems I can anticipate otherthan courage there is no real problem if there is a publisher - and I do not know one if there is - with the courage. And the willingness to print fast. As fast as I could. There is no real prospect of the book I can do fast being overtaken by events. While there are other things I could do, for a definitive book like nothingyou can imagine, I believe, imagine, I need nothing I don't now have. Including an appendix of facsimile reproductions.

What I think is lacking is one thing only: people with enough concern for themelves, their children, their country and the world.

So, remembering what you have said in the past, I write you first. But if you give this a second thought, do not underestimate the toughness and potential danger of an honest job.